(b) What is the estimated decline in foreign exchange earnings as a consequences thereof; and

(c) What steps have been taken by Government to make good the losses?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) It is difficult to quantify the losses suffered on account of the plague. Exporters expressed the opinion that the outbreak of plague had delayed their export shipments to certain destinations, some orders were also cancelled. Total exports during the month of October are estimated at $2198 million which are 26.9% higher compared to exports recorded in October, 1993.

Import of used/Second hand Automobile Engines

*68. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of used/second hand automobile engines is allowed from abroad;

(b) if not, the reasons there for;

(c) whether such import is banned under some presseure from industrial houses in India for their benefit;

(d) Whether Government are aware that interest of common consumers are affected by this ban; and

(e) Whether this ban will be lifted under the liberalized policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Under the, current Export and Import Policy-1992-97, Import of consumer durables and second-hand goods including used/second-hand automobile engines (except capital goods) in the Restricted list of imports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Government is not considering liberalisation of the import of used/second hand automobile engines on account of non-availability of spare parts for their repairs and maintenance and environmental pollution.

Lack of Coordination between Ministries Leading to Decline in Export Growth

*69. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the recent decline in export growth is the result of lack of coordination between the Finance and Commerce Ministries as has been alleged by the Managing Committee of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. Export growth has not been affected recently due to any lack of coordination within the Government. Infact export growth has been steadily increasing in recent months and is estimated to be about 14% in April-October 1994 compared to April-October, 1993.

(b) Does not arise.

Scheme for elimination of child labour

*70. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a estimated 20 lakhs children are e

present employed in the hazardous industries of the country and if so, the break-up thereof, industry-wise;

(b) whether Government has pledged to the United Nations to eliminate child labour by the year 2000 through a detailed well phased programme of action;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have drawn up a scheme for the elimination of child labour from the hazardous industries;

(d) if so, the main features thereof; and

(e) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The break-up of child labour industry-wise is not maintained.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address on the 15th August, 1994 had announced that about two million children engaged in hazardous occupations are required to be taken out of such occupations and put into schools. Following up on the Prime Minister's announcement, Government is in the process of formulating a comprehensive scheme to cover two million children engaged in hazardous occupations by the year 2000. These children are expected to be withdrawn from the world of work and diverted to special schools which will enable them to attend regular schools from the VIth Class. In addition, it is proposed to raise the income-levels of the parents of the children who are being brought out of hazardous occupations through other schemes of the Government. These, inter alia, include schemes like IRDP, Employment Assurance Scheme and JRY. In order to ensure proper convergence of schemes of the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India to effectively implement the proposed programme announced by the Prime Minister the National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour has already been created (copy annexed) (*See* below).

(e) Implementation of the scheme is scheduled to commence during the current financial year.

The [illegible] published in the Gazette of

No. Z-19011/5/94-CIL
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Labour/Shram Mantralaya

New Delhi, dated 26-9-94

RESOLUTION

Keeping in view the provisions as laid down in the Constitution of India with regard to prohibition of employment of children in hazardous employments, the ILO Standards concerning employment of Child labour and the need for systematic action to progressively eliminate child labour altogether, the Government of India has decided to constitute a National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour. Pending creation of an autonomous statutory body for the purpose, it has been decided to constitute the Authority as under :—

1. Minister of State for Labour . . . . . .
2. Secretary, Ministry of Labour . . . . . Member
3. Secretary, Expenditure, Ministry of Finance . . . Member
4. Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development . . . . . Member
5. Secretary, Department of Education, Ministry of human Resource Development . . . . . Member
6. Secretary, Ministry of Textiles . . . . . Member

7.	Secretary, Ministry of Welfare	Member
8.	Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development . . .	Member
9.	Secretary, Department of Health Ministry of Health . . .	Member
10.	Secretary, Department of Family Welfare Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Member
11.	Secretary, Ministry of I & B	Member
12.	Director Incharge of Child Labour, Ministry of Labour .	Member-Secretary

The functions of the National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour will be :—

(i) to lay down the policies and programme for elimination of child labour particularly in hazardous employments.

(ii) to monitor the progress of implementation of programmes, project and schemes for elimination of child labour.

(iii) to co-ordinate implementation of child labour elimination related projects of the various sister Ministries of the Government of India.

ORDER

Ordered that a copy of the Resolution be communicated to all the Members. Ordered also that the Resolution be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

Sd/- S. Gopalan
Secretary to Government of India

To

The Manager,
Government of India Press
Ring Road, Mayapuri Industrial Area, New Delhi.

Monitoring of prices of essential commodities

*71. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had selected 12 essential commodities to keep a regular watch on their prices availability, shortages etc;

(b) if so, the details of these items and the reasons for not placing a watch on more essential items;

(c) if so, what are the details of the selling prices of these 12 items prevailing at present and how did these compare with the prices in each of the last 12 months;

(d) the details of the items whose prices kept on rising and the status of their availability ; and

(e) the details of the items which have not been made available to the consumers through the outlets of the Super Bazar and the Kendriya Bhandar and the steps taken to ensure their availability at all times in all the branches ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPLLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rice, Wheet, Arhar dal, Gram dal, Potatoes, Onions, Tea